

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Executive Registry
79-2859

SECRET

December 12, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Soviet Actions in Iran and the Middle East (S)

It is time for us to start thinking about how we will be responding to Soviet attempts to capitalize on our difficulties in Iran. Before we can do that, we need the best answers you can provide to the following questions:

-- What is the current level and effectiveness of Soviet activity in Iran, including broadcasts and covert activities?

-- How does Khomeini regard the Soviets?

-- Do the Soviets control the Tudeh Party? Does the Party have some autonomy? How is it financed?

-- What are Soviet links to other left-wing groups in Iran?

-- What are the Soviets up to in the minority areas, especially Azerbaijan and Kurdistan?

-- What is the likelihood of the Soviets supporting independence movements in minority regions or of actually trying to annex parts of Azerbaijan?

-- Do the Soviets view their actions in Afghanistan as related to Iran?

-- How are Soviet ties with the PLO and other Palestinian groups being exploited by the Soviets in the current situation. Is the PLO a link between the Soviets and Khomeini?

NLC review(s) completed.

SECRETORIGINAL CL BY Z.Brzezinski
☐ DECL ☒ REVW ON 12/7/1985EXT BYND 6 YEARS BY _____
REASON _____

MORI/CDF Pages1-2

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What would the likely Soviet reaction be to the following:

A) Hostage trials, some hostages released, others detained, continued US pressure?

B) US military action?

C) Intensified regional strife?

D) Extreme weakening or collapse of the Khomeini regime?

-- What are Soviet capabilities for covert action on the Arabian Peninsula and in the Gulf?

-- Were the Soviets involved in a disinformation campaign in Pakistan and elsewhere in the Islamic world blaming the takeover of the Grand Mosque in Mecca on us?

-- How accurate is our estimation of what the Soviets are doing in the Middle East? Are there Intelligence gaps? If so, are we undertaking measures to bridge those gaps? (S)



Zbigniew Brzezinski

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT (O/DCI)

Routing Slip

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	DD/RM				
4	DD/NFA	X			
5	DD/CT				
6	DD/A				
7	DD/O		X		
8	DD/S&T				
9	GC				
10	LC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/PA				
14	D/EEO				
15	D/Pers				
16	AO/DCI				
17	G/IPS				
18	C/NE/DDO		X		
19	NIO/NESA		X		
20	NSC/C		X		
21					
22					

SUSPENSE DATE:

Remarks: To 4: Please develop response.

To 20: Please determine due date after consultation with NFAC.

Executive Secretary
13 Dec 79

Date

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